

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

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AMCONSUL IZMIR IMMEDIATE

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INFO AMCONSUL ADANA IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, CY

SUBJECT: STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER ON GREECE-TURKEY-CYPRUS

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXTRACTS RELATING TO SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE FROM TRANSCRIPT OF NOVEMBER 23 MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT-ELECT AND SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AS RELEASED DECEMBER 1:

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2. PRESIDENT-ELECT: "....I ALSO WILL CERTAINLY RESPECT YOUR ADVICE. I KNOW THAT MANY OF THE ISSUES ARE VERY CONTROVERSIAL. HOW TO REPAIR OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH GREECE AND TURKEY AND HOW TO DEAL WITH THE CYPRUS QUESTION IS ONE. IT CANNOT POSSIBLY SUIT EVERYONE IN THE COUNTRY."

3. SENATOR CHURCH: "....BUT THE FEELING OF SUSPICION AND DISTRUST TOWARD THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WAS GREATLY EXACERBATED BY THE FACT THAT THE COMMITTEE WAS OFTEN LEFT UNINFORMED AND SOMETIMES MISINFORMED. WHEN WE CAME TO KNOW THAT, IT BECAME MUCH HARDER TO COOPERATE WITH THE EXECUTIVE. SO WE RESORTED TO REMEDIES BY LEGISLATION WHICH ARE AWKWARD AT BEST AND OFTEN UNWORKABLE. YOU WATCHED THAT HAPPEN IN TURKISH-CYPRUS AFFAIR."

4. SENATOR PELL: "....I WOULD LIKE TO TOUCH ON A POINT YOU MENTIONED, THAT YOU HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY UNDER THE CONSTITUTION, WHICH YOU MOST CERTAINLY DO, FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS. I HAVE SEEN IN THE FEW YEARS THAT I HAVE BEEN ON THIS COMMITTEE THAT THIS COMMITTEE'S VIEWS ON THE BIG ISSUES GENERALLY HAVE SEEMED TO BE MORE ACCURATE OR BETTER FOR THE NATIONAL INTEREST THAN THE PRESIDENT'S. THIS WAS TRUE IN CONNECTION WITH VIETNAM, ANGOLA, THE WAR POWERS RESOLUTION, AND THE GREEK JUNTA. THIS MAY HAVE MADE US A LITTLE MORE CONFIDENT THAN WOULD OTHERWISE BE THE CASE. WE DO TREMENDOUSLY LIKE THE IDEA OF THIS PRELIMINARY GO-AROUND YOU MENTIONED BEFORE YOUR INAUGURATION BECAUSE THEN MAYBE THE IMPACT OF OUR IDEAS WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO BE EXPRESSED BEFORE THE ANNUNCIATION OF POLICY. IN THAT CONNECTION AND OF SOME POLITICAL INTEREST IS THE QUESTION OF THE TURKISH TREATY, ABOUT WHICH I KNOW YOU HAVE BEEN THINKING.

"TO THOSE OF US WHO HAVE OPPOSED THIS AND SUPPORTED GREECE IN THE PAST, IT IS NOT A POLITICAL QUESTION. IN THE DAYS OF THE JUNTA MOST GREEK-AMERICANS OR MEMBERS OF AHEPA STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE JUNTA. YOU LOST VOTES BY OPPOSING THE JUNTA; YOU DIDN'T GAIN THEM. BUT THERE ARE QUESTIONS OF THE BASIC RIGHTS AND WRONGS OF THE OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS AND ALSO THE QUESTION OF PRECEDENT AS WE MOVE TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT BILATERAL, LONG-RANGE TREATIES WITH INDIVIDUAL

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NATO ALLIES EXTENDING BEYOND ONE CONGRESS, TREATIES TO WHICH I AM OPPOSED.

"I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD GIVE US A LITTLE BIT OF A VIEW OF YOUR OWN THOUGHTS WITH REGARD TO THE TURKISH DEFENSE TREATY."

5. PRESIDENT-ELECT: "I DON'T FEEL I AM YET QUALIFIED TO

TALK ABOUT THE DETAILS OF THE TURKISH TREATY. I HAVE DISCUSSED IT TO SOME DEGREE WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER. I AM A LITTLE RELUCTANT TO SPELL OUT THE POSITION THAT I WILL ASSUME AFTER I AM PRESIDENT.

"I THINK THE TURKISH BASES ARE IMPORTANT TO US. I THINK THE PRESENCE IN A CONTINUING WAY OF OUR NAVY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN IS CRUCIAL. I THINK BECAUSE OF A SERIES OF MISTAKES AND POSSIBLE UNWARRANTED INTRUSION INTO THE CYPRUS QUESTION THAT WE HAVE ALIENATED TO SOME DEGREE BOTH THE GREEK AND TURKISH GOVERNMENTS. THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF CELEBRATION IN GREECE WHEN I WAS ELECTED, AND I THINK THE CELEBRATION WAS PERHAPS UNWARRANTED IF IT WAS AN ASSUMPTION THAT I WOULD LACK OBJECTIVITY.

BUT I WOULD HOPE THAT WE MIGHT GO AHEAD AND TRY TO RATIFY AN AGREEMENT WITH BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY TO CONTINUE AN ADEQUATE MILITARY PRESENCE IN THOSE COUNTRIES. I THINK THE AEGEAN CONFRONTATION IS NOW LIKELY TO BE RESOLVED. THAT UNCLASSIFIED

IS A PRESENT PROSPECT. BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD LIKE THE CYPRUS QUESTION TENSION ALLEVIATED. I DON'T KNOW TO WHAT DEGREE TURKEY MIGHT BE WILLING TO WITHDRAW FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OR TO WHAT DEGREE THEY WOULD ACCEPT THE REPATRIATION OF THE GREEK-CYPRIOT CITIZENS. THOSE QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH ME IN SOME DETAIL BY SECRETARY KISSINGER AND BY MR. BUSH. BUT TO SPELL OUT THE POSTURE I WOULD TAKE ON SUCH NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE PREMATURE."

KISSINGER

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